

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

FOR PA USE ONLY

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM

Amembassy CANBERRA

DATE: 9 November 62

SUBJECT:

External Affairs Minister's Statement on Cuban Crisis

REF

External Affairs Minister on November 6 made a seven page statement to Parliament which reviewed the events of the Cuban crisis, the position of the Government of Australia and outlined four "lessons" which are emerging as a result of the developments of the past two weeks.

1. He cited the duplicity practiced by arms buildup on Cuban soil while at the same time on the highest level assurances were being given that weapons being supplied were of a defensive nature, as example of the difficulty of negotiations with the Soviet Union. He said this once again gave graphic proof of the necessity for verification and inspection in any broader disarmament plan.

2. The effectiveness of speedy action by the United States and other states, operating on a regional basis exemplified the efficacy of the regional defense principal in general.

3. The role of the United Nations and the Secretary General was shown to be constructive, and not that simply of a forum, when at the same time the United States had made its intention clear to take whatever steps in its own defense.

4. The lack of USSR-GOC consultations pointed out the

UNCLASSIFIED

FOR DEPT USE ONLY

Drafted by:

JShumate:cr:11/6/62

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearance:

88- D0S - 0338 PB

UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

dependent position of Cuba, and Soviet regard of Cuba as "merely
an instrument for pursuit of its own policies."

For the Ambassador:

Donald W. Lamm

Donald W. Lamm

First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

att
"The Crisis Over Cuba" (6)

1
UNCLASSIFIED